



CALinnovates

March 22, 2017

Senator Ben Hueso
Chair
Senate Energy, Utility and Communications Committee
State Capitol, Room 4035
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Letter of Support—SB 649

Dear Senator Hueso,

CALinnovates writes in support of SB 649, an important and forward-looking bill that will encourage broader access to enhanced wireless services and set the stage for the future deployment of 5G technology.

CALinnovates, a coalition of technology leaders, startups and entrepreneurs, works to ensure that California remains on the cutting edge of next-generation technology services that provide immense benefit to the state, its municipalities and its people. Strategic implementation of next-generation communications infrastructure on an ongoing and periodic basis, especially at a time when use of data is skyrocketing, will allow California to meet the increasing demand for wireless connectivity and capacity that is the new backbone of today's digital-based economy.

SB 649 promises to allow California to meet increasing demand for wireless connectivity through the deployment of small cells. While increased connectivity will certainly allow more people to simultaneously stream over the top entertainment like *Orange Is The New Black*, small cells can also provide a cost-efficient method of increasing broadband speeds in rural communities, make public transportation systems more responsive, and strengthen network connectivity during large public gatherings and events.

As it stands now, the permitting process to deploy small cell technology is cumbersome, putting California's position as a global technology leader in doubt. In a recent study we commissioned by Dr. David W. Sosa, we found that from 2008 through 2015, California's total wireless subscriptions jumped by 9.5 million, or 29 percent. Consumer demand for faster broadband is driving investment in wireless services, and the deployment of small cell technology will allow industry to help meet this growing demand. The evolving wireless landscape is exactly why the current permitting process needs to be rethought. For some localities in the state, the permitting process is the same for large cell towers as it is for small cells, meaning approval of a single small cell can

take up to two years. We are in a worldwide race with Japan, South Korea, and the EU to be the first to deploy 5G networks, and streamlining our permitting process for small cell technology will keep us on pace. California needs to begin laying the groundwork for 5G networks now, and small cell technology will help enhance the quality and capacity of our networks so when the time comes, California can hit the ground running.

CALinnovates commends you for your leadership on this issue. California, the home of innovation, cannot be content to simply meet the demand for next-generation wireless connectivity in today's digital economy. Now is the time to embrace the opportunity to exceed consumer demand. Such connectivity is essential to California's economic and social prosperity, and we urge you and your colleagues to support SB 649.

Sincerely.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kish Rajan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kish Rajan
Chief Evangelist

cc: Members, Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee
Nidia Bautista, Committee Consultant
Kerry Yoshida, Senate Republican Policy
Tom Dyer, Office of the Governor